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MAY 31 2005

Docket No. HOE96/F318**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Fritz Schwertfeger

Examiner: Kirsten Jolley

U.S. Serial No.: 09/308,770

Group Art Unit: 1762

Filed: October 28, 1999

For: **METHOD FOR PRODUCING ORGANICALLY MODIFIED,  
PERMANENTLY HYDROPHOBIC AEROGELS**

Commissioner for Patents,  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 29, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks. This Amendment and Response is considered timely filed on May 31, 2005, along with a corresponding Request for Extension of Time of 2 months, since May 29, 2005 is a Sunday, and Monday, May 30, 2005 is a holiday.

**Amendments to the Claims** are included in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.

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